

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-12
EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /071 W
-----066877 192143Z /46

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5868
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 0596

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CO
SUBJ: FY 1978 FMS FINANCING PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 012271

1. I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER THE FMS FINANCING LEVEL
ASSIGNED TO COLOMBIA: \$31 MILLION FOR FY 1977 AND FY 1978.
2. IN OUR PROGRAMMING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COLOMBIAN
ARMED FORCES (CAF), WE HAVE BEEN USING, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES,
\$26 MILLION AND \$29 MILLION FOR BOTY FY 1977 AND FY 1978,
RESPECTIVELY. WE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO
BELIEVE THAT THESE AMOUNTS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AND THE CAF
HAVE BASED THEIR ENTIRE, MODEST, REMODERNIZATION PROGRAM ON
THAT ASSUMPTION.
3. IF I AM NOW TO INFORM THE GOC THAT THEIR EXPECTATIONS ARE
TO BE SO SHARPLY DISAPPOINTED, THE EFFECT WILL BE TO JEOPARDIZE
IMPORTANT U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, ONE OF WHICH ASSIGNED TO
THIS MISSION BY THE DEPARTMENT IS TO "ENCOURAGE COLOMBIA TO
ACCEPT A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY IN GUARANTEEING SECURITY OF
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SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN THE APPROACHES TO THE PANAMA
CANAL" (STATE 295522). I WILL BE AT A SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE
IN ATTEMPTING TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL IF THE CAF ARE RESENTFUL
AND DISAPPOINTED OVER THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. TO PROVIDE
FULL FMS CREDITS. EVEN IF THE COLOMBIANS WERE WILLING, THE
CAPABILITIES OF THE COLOMBIAN NAVY AND AIR FORCE TO CARRY OUT
THIS TASK WOULD BE, TO SAY THE LEAST, SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED BY

A SHORT FALL IN FMS CREDITS, A MAJOR PORTION OF WHICH ARE
EARMARKED FOR SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT FOR PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE
MISSIONS.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, I BELIEVE THAT THE USG SHOULD
SHOW A CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR THOSE WHO PRACTICE HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY, IN ORDER TO INCREASE RESPECT FOR THOSE VALUES.
THAT COLOMBIA IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING DEMOCRACIES IN THIS
AREA IS, IN LARGE PART, DUE TO THE CONSCIOUS DECISION OF THE
CAF TO SUPPORT CIVILIAN-LED, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN
RIGHTS, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE CAF REGULARLY RECEIVES
THE LOWEST PRIORITY IN THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET.

6. IF REFTTEL IS CORRECT, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE PREVIOUS
FMS CREDIT LEVELS (PAR 2) BE RESTORED.
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